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Jessica Weinberg
7168 Tottenham Rd.
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May 12, 2001

President George W. Bush
The White House
Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Later this year, Congress is likely to vote on a measure that, if passed, will allow the shipment of 70,000 metric tons of nuclear waste to a storage site on Yucca Mountain in the state of Nevada. I hope that you will oppose this measure and veto it should it arrive at your desk, as scientific research shows that Yucca Mountain, for a variety of reasons, a poor location for nuclear waste.

First of all, the health of the residents of the Amargosa Valley will be threatened if the storage site is built. The aquifer beneath the mountain, which provides them with drinking water, will almost surely be contaminated by the nuclear waste stored on the mountain. Furthermore, the waste is likely to leak into and contaminate the groundwater, leading to even further health risks as local people consume meat, milk and produce that have been produced with contaminated water. Because dairy farms in the same region produce milk that is sold in the Los Angeles area, the negative consequences of nuclear waste on Yucca Mountain have the potential to be very far-reaching.

This issue is one of national importance because in order for nuclear waste to be stored on Yucca, it must travel through 43 states, including Ohio, and therefore endanger the health and safety of thousands of Americans who live nowhere near the actual site. According to the Department of Energy, over one thousand "incidents" are likely to occur if the waste is shipped by truck, as well as 70 to 310 accidents. If trains are used, between 50 and 260 accidents as well as 250 incidents could occur. A severe accident could contaminate as much as 42 square miles for over a year. Even when shipping is successful and accident-free, however, residents of all areas along the routes will be exposed to radiation, and property values will decline.

Before any place in the United States is declared a safe and appropriate location for the storage of nuclear waste, more research is needed. The Department of Energy should study locations besides Yucca Mountain that may be more suitable; their refusal to do so has led to allegations of collusion with the nuclear industry and an investigation by the Inspector General. Furthermore, a safer method of transport must be discovered or developed before we can transport nuclear waste anywhere without creating a considerable threat to public safety and health. In the meantime, please take the first step by vetoing all legislation that would authorize the shipment of nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Weinberg". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Jessica Weinberg